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Adding Is As Easy As One, Two, Three

Marshall Sachs
Hale Middle School

education…with a more critical stance.

4. Conquering the fear of math spills over in a lowering of fear in general and a potential to refashion one's habits of mind. It opens up the possibility of basic changes in one's "cosmology" on a personal and communal level.

5. It allows all to share in relishing the joy and beauties of mathematics.

A CALL TO ACTION

I listened to Public Radio while in San Antonio, and after hearing the news I was regaled several times a day by an instructive and exciting little astronomy lesson originating in the university's observatory. It occurred to me that we could do the same with a "Think Math!" lesson.

My suggestion is that we establish a website devoted to disseminating Quantitative Awareness. We would both teach and solicit comments and contributions of a kind similar to the type of examples we discussed previously, i.e. quantitative techniques to view such things as budgets, national and local priorities, election expenditures, environmental problems, etc.

A clear and humane vision is sorely lacking in most of the world's governing bodies (beholden mainly to moneyed moguls, corporate or individual) in the face of the numerous difficult problems facing our world . Thus all kinds of things have gone out of kilter even in the most advanced countries, such as health care, education, legal and political arrangements, environmental balance, demographics, distribution of wealth, let alone the allocation of resources. Many of us, as teachers, have seen the spark of understanding light up in the eyes of our students when they grasped a concept, then realized its use and that they themselves could apply it. It is becoming more necessary than ever that people at large be enabled to search for and advance solutions from below and figure things out at the local and global level. This requires a critical stance towards what one is "told from above," be it by the media or the politicians, coupled with a confidence in one's ability to think clearly, rationally and freely. Let's go for it!

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Math is really great
It teaches you how to calculate.
You can learn stuff about math
Even when you take a bath.
Sometimes math can be strange
Like when learning about range.
Math can be real mean
When you are a teen.
You need to do multiplication
For analyzation.
a future with math is near
Please do not fear.
The things you learn about math today
Will bring you all the way.
I think math is really great
It teaches you how to calculate.

Eric Rasyidi

Adding is as easy as one, two, three.
Just add ten plus ten to reach twenty.
But as you really begin to try,
Addition becomes fun as can be.
Subtraction isn't much harder.
You don't have to be any smarter.
Instead of adding you take away.
You can subtract any day,
If you remember my simple starter.
Multiplying is like adding many times.
For example, let's use three dimes.
Instead of adding ten plus ten plus ten,
Just multiply three times ten.
Multiplication can be great sometimes.
Division is just shrinking numbers down.
When you divide there's no reason to frown.
You can divide in the rain.
You can divide on a noisy train.
Don't try dividing in a pool because you just might
    drown.

Marshall Sachs

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